



By email and mail

November 29, 2007

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Bay-Delta Authority
650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 11/19/07 DRAFT NEAR TERM ACTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Chairman Isenberg,

At the upcoming meeting of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, you will be considering whether to adopt the November 19, 2007, draft "Recommendations for Near Term Actions to Support the Vision for California's Delta." We strongly support these recommendations, but believe they are incomplete in two areas. We urge you, therefore, to include the following two revisions in your final recommendations.

First, we agree that the state should disallow residential building in flood prone areas. Given the degree of risk to human life and safety, we believe that the Task Force should make clear that the state should initiate an immediate moratorium on urban development in flood prone areas, rather than rely solely on floodplain acquisition.

Second, as the most recent draft of the Delta Vision notes, "water diversions upstream threaten the Delta ecosystem, as do Delta exports." The existing unprecedented degree of risk to the Delta and its watershed, which is currently oversubscribed for consumptive uses, will only be exacerbated by the many pending, anticipated or potential new

applications to appropriate water, as well as similar decisions to divert water previously appropriated but not fully utilized. Yet the Task Force proposes no near term actions to address this threat. We believe that the Task Force should add a recommendation to the near term actions that the state should initiate an immediate moratorium on pending or new applications to appropriate water. This moratorium should also apply to approval of any new projects that would increase diversions or exports within the Delta and its watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the near term actions. We look forward to working with you and the other members of the Task Force to promote near term actions that can help reverse the trend of increasing loss of the values of the Delta as an ecosystem, a special place, and a sustainable resource.

Sincerely,

Gary Bobker
Program Director